

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
HEMSWORTH.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1897.

C. E. TURNER, PRINTER, HEMSWORTH.

Hemsworth Rural District Council.

Annual Report, 1897.

Presented March 17th, 1898.

GENTLEMEN,

In submitting this, my fifteenth Annual Report, for your consideration, I have pleasure in again testifying to the maintained desire and practical effort of the Council to place their District in a satisfactory sanitary condition. In previous reports attention has been drawn to the transformation from the purely agricultural to the decidedly colliery character that the District is now passing through. It is due to this progressive change that each year seems to enhance the many important problems of sanitary reform that the Council are called upon to solve.

The day is fortunately passed when they were indifferently regarded, and a policy of procrastination was the order of the day.

It is ten years ago since the earnest attention of the Sanitary Authority of those days was drawn to the need of a sufficient supply of pure and wholesome water for the larger colliery Townships of the District. Drainage schemes and the disposal of sewage for these Townships have been advocated for even a longer period ; and the need of systematic scavenging has been equally insisted upon.

Certainly the retrospect of 1897 of the sanitary progress of the Hemsworth District will bear favourable comparison to other Districts more advantageously circumstanced.

In reviewing the Sanitary events of the past year, the water supply for the Townships of Hemsworth, South Hiendley, Shafton, Brierley, South Kirkby, and South Elmsall by the Barnsley Corporation has entered its final stages, in so much that the mains are now being laid, and in course of the next six months these Townships will be supplied. Ackworth continues to make more use of its supply by the Pontefract Corporation. The public supply of Ryhill has been very inadequate during the past year, and, indeed, so irregular and insufficient that the future supply of this Township would be better secured by joining the other Townships which are supplied by the Barnsley Corporation.

GREAT HOUGHTON WATER SUPPLY.—During the last year the supply of Great Houghton by the Dearne Valley Company has improved. A more regular and constant supply has been maintained, so that the water has lost the tarry taste mentioned in my last Report. Owing to the hard character of this water, considerable prejudice still exists amongst the mining population to its use for domestic purposes.

DRAINAGE.—Most of the larger Townships are now supplied with completed drainage schemes and out-fall works. That at Ackworth, which has been a large undertaking, will be completed and in working order during the present year. The drainage schemes of Middlecliffe, Little Houghton, South Elmsall, and Moorthorpe, are still under the consideration of the Council.

The need for drainage schemes for the smaller agricultural Townships will at no distant date require the consideration of the Council. Upton, North Elmsall, Kirk Smeaton, and Brierley are at present badly drained, and contribute to the pollution of neighbouring streams.

SCAVENGING.—On the whole, scavenging has been more satisfactorily carried out. Ash pits are not now so frequently seen overflowing with ashes, refuse, and excreta as in former years. The need, however, for a better and more systematic method of removal and disposal is still most apparent.

The present year should see Hemsworth supplied with a depôt and staff for dealing with the needs of this Township, which may prove an object lesson to the other larger Townships worthy of imitation.

The demand for house accommodation for the increasing population of the District continues. The houses are mostly arranged in rows, and erected under the bye-laws. The class of tenants occupying them is responsible to a great extent for the insanitary condition in which many of the houses and their surroundings shortly develop, rendering them favourable centres for the spread of such infectious diseases as enteric fever and infantile diarrhœa.

Baylee Street, Hemsworth, consisting of 26 houses of the ordinary colliery type, is illustrative of this. For the last four years periodical outbreaks of enteric fever have occurred in this locality, the origin of which could only be traced to the insanitary condition of

the back-yards. These having become sodden with filth and the excreta of children probably suffering in some cases from unrecognised typhoid fever, the soil has become infected with the germs of this disease, needing only favourable climatic conditions to bring them into life, and so spread infection.

So far as Baylee Street is concerned, the back yards of these houses have recently been paved and placed in a more sanitary condition. I would recommend that such provisions should be made in the bye-laws by which this could be carried out in the future.

With this increase of dwelling-houses overcrowding has been very much lessened, and does not exist now to any appreciable extent.

The statistical tables appended to this report are in themselves an epitome of the sanitary state of the District. The Birth and Death rates, as well as Infant Mortality and the Zymotic Death rates, will bear favourable comparison to previous years.

On reference to Table XI, it will be seen that the number of notified cases of infectious disease is slightly in excess of last year, and it will also be noted that the majority of cases occurred during the last quarter.

Diphtheria was prevalent at Ackworth, Ryhill, and Brierley during January, February, March, and June, and responsible for four fatal cases.

Scarlet fever has been prevalent at South Hiendley, Monckton Main, Skelbrook, Ryhill Hemsworth, Ackworth, Huntwick, South Kirkby, Nostell, Great and Little Houghton, Wragby, Hessle, Badsworth, and Upton. This disease has been more or less prevalent in the District through every month of the year, the origin of each localised outbreak being due to infection imported from the neighbouring districts.

The severest and most extensive outbreak occurred at Ackworth. It commenced in September last, and is still prevalent at the present date. Up to December 31st 55 cases were notified, 35 of which were removed to the Infectious Hospital. In consequence of the wide-spread character of the outbreak, the closure of the Ackworth Moor Top Board Schools was rendered necessary from November 2nd to December 20th, and Miss Howard's School from December 3rd to December 20th, 1897.

The explanation of the long-continued prevalence of this disease at Ackworth is entirely due to the ignorance and culpable carelessness of parents in permitting their children to be at large whilst suffering from this disease. On more than one occasion several children have been seen by the Inspector playing with others on the highway whilst peeling. Several children have also attended the Ackworth Moor Top Board School in this same condition. In all these cases the parents have pleaded ignorance of the disease from which they were suffering, and in consequence no legal action was taken against them. It would appear from this that unless a medically notified case were so exposed no conviction could be obtained under the 126th Section of the Public Health Act, so that practically there is no legal remedy for preventing the spread of the disease by ignorant and careless exposure. The apparent defect of this section would suggest an amended and a more comprehensive legal method of dealing with such cases, whereby convictions could be obtained against parents so exposing their children under any circumstances or conditions.

Enteric fever has been prevalent at South Kirkby, Nostell, Hemsworth, Ackworth, and Havercroft, most of the cases originating from the impurity of the water supply.

Twenty-eight cases have been notified, of which two have proved fatal, seventeen cases being removed to the Infectious Hospital. At no time have any of these outbreaks threatened to become epidemic.

Infantile diarrhœa of an epidemic character was prevalent in all the Colliery Townships during July, August, September, and October, and was responsible for 27 deaths.

MEASLES.—This disease was prevalent at South Elmsall during January and February, necessitating the closure of the school from Feb. 2nd to Feb. 22nd; also at Kinsley and Hemsworth during December. Fortunately these outbreaks were of a mild type, only four fatal cases being recorded.

Special Reports of all outbreaks of Infectious Disease have been submitted to the Local Government Board and West Riding County Council, and house-to-house visitations have been made as occasion required, as well as personal examinations at the Schools of children where Infectious Disease has been prevalent.

In dealing with these outbreaks of Infectious Disease, the need of the Infectious Hospital has been fully maintained. An increased number of cases have been admitted, resulting in the accommodation being taxed to its utmost limits. No real difficulty is now experienced in the removal of cases. The explanation of this is not far to seek, for the experience of the last few years has convinced the working class, from whom the cases are mainly drawn, that the patients are treated with care and kindness and with a proper system of nursing;

etc., which cannot be provided at their own homes. Indeed, so great has been the demand on the Hospital, that the accommodation is now insufficient. No provision exists for the isolation of cases of Diphtheria, and the Scarlet Fever Ward is far too small for the present requirements of the District. I have, therefore, to suggest that additional accommodation should be made for these two diseases.

Two houses at Hemsworth, one at South Hiendley, and two at Ryhill have been reported as unfit for human occupation. Owing to the subsidence of the surface at Kinsley, due to the Hemsworth Colliery workings, several houses have become structurally defective or dangerous for occupation. In all these cases the various owners have complied with the requirements of the Council, rendering any legal action unnecessary.

The appointment of an additional Inspector of Nuisances has been productive of a largely increased number of nuisances being dealt with and remedied. During 1895, 409 nuisances were reported. During the present year this number has been increased to 968. They have been of the usual type, and remedied without legal interference.

This large increase speaks well for the diligence of the Inspectors, and should result in a corresponding improvement in the general sanitary condition of the District.

In conclusion, I have again to express my appreciation of the aid rendered to me by the Council and their officials in the discharge of my duties.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

March 16th, 1898.

G. E. COLEMAN.

TABLE I.

Population—Census 1881		...	...	11,106				
,, ,, 1891		...	...	14,631				
Estimated ditto to middle of 1897		...	...	17,382				
BIRTHS AND DEATHS (WITH THEIR RATES).								
	Births		Birth-rate	Deaths		Death-rate		
1887	...	466	...	34·7	...	218	...	16·2
1888	...	502	...	36·2	...	287	...	20·7
1889	...	506	...	35·4	...	246	...	17·2
1890	...	498	...	33·8	...	238	...	16·1
1891	...	577	...	39·4	...	287	...	19·6
1892	...	606	...	40	...	250	...	16·5
1893	...	650	...	41·7	...	318	...	20·4
1894	...	620	...	38·7	...	246	...	15·3
1895	...	681	...	41·3	...	300	...	18·2
1896	...	719	...	42·5	...	294	...	17·3
1897	...	777	...	44·7	...	311	...	17·8

TABLE II.

	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897
Deaths under 1 year	107	80	104	116	118
„ over 1 year and under 5 years	53	41	48	37	41
„ „ 5 years „ 15 „	14	20	18	13	15
„ „ 15 „ „ 25 „	16	11	20	24	12
„ „ 25 „ „ 65 „	70	52	56	60	70
„ „ 65 „ and upwards	58	42	54	44	55
Totals ...	318	246	300	294	311

TABLE III.

	BIRTHS.					DEATHS.				
	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897
Males...	327	287	347	383	399	163	135	162	164	167
Females	323	333	334	336	378	155	111	138	130	144
Totals	650	620	681	719	777	318	246	300	294	311

TABLE IV.
ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.

1887	...	...	...	...	1'4
1888	...	...	...	...	3'3
1889	...	...	...	...	3'2
1890	...	...	...	...	1'8
1891	...	...	...	...	2'4
1892	...	...	...	...	2'3
1893	...	...	...	...	2'4
1894	...	...	...	...	1'5
1895	...	...	...	...	3'1
1896	...	...	...	...	3'3
1897	..	...	...	...	2'6

TABLE V.
INFANT MORTALITY.

1887	...	...	...	...	111
1888	...	...	...	...	165
1889	...	...	..	...	162
1890	...	...	...	...	132
1891	...	...	...	...	159
1892	...	...	...	...	118
1893	...	...	...	...	164
1894	...	...	...	...	129
1895	...	...	...	...	152
1896	...	...	...	...	161
1897	...	...	...	...	151*

*Deducting 26 deaths of children certified under Premature Birth, Inanition, and Immaturity—all under 3 weeks—gives an infant mortality of 110.

TABLE VI.

Township.	1896.						1897.							Illegitimate children.
	BIRTHS.			DEATHS.			BIRTHS.			DEATHS.				
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.		
Ackworth	61	48	109	17	19	36	57	57	114	21	16	37	2	
Badsworth	3	2	5	...	1	1	3	1	4	2	1	3	...	
Brierley	10	3	13	12	2	14	16	15	31	9	14	23	1	
Great Houghton	22	17	39	9	2	11	20	19	39	9	3	12	2	
Hamphall Stubbs	2	1	3	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
Havercroft	13	5	18	10	2	12	7	14	21	5	1	6	1	
Hemsworth	97	104	201	48	42	90	116	99	215	54	48	102	7	
Hessle & Hill Top	3	2	5	1	1	2	1	3	4	1	...	1	...	
Huntwick, Foulby and Nostell	12	7	19	2	4	6	7	13	20	4	3	7	1	
Kirk Smeaton	4	3	7	1	6	7	1	5	6	2	3	5	...	
Little Houghton	6	2	8	3	3	6	8	8	16	3	6	9	2	
Little Smeaton	4	5	9	1	3	4	2	2	4	5	1	6	...	
North Elmsall	5	5	10	4	5	9	9	6	15	1	1	2	...	
Ryhill	25	39	64	14	17	31	30	28	58	12	15	27	2	
Shafton	16	13	29	5	3	8	19	14	33	5	4	9	1	
South Elmsall	11	16	27	4	1	5	15	11	26	5	6	11	1	
South Hiendley	16	14	30	6	4	10	16	17	33	9	5	14	...	
South Kirkby...	59	40	99	22	12	34	61	53	114	16	11	27	3	
Skelbrook	2	2	4	1	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
Thorpe Audlin	4	1	5	2	2	4	6	3	9	...	2	2	...	
Upton	5	3	8	...	...	...	1	5	6	2	4	6	2
Walden Stubbs	1	3	4	1	...	1	3	3	6	2	...	2	...	
West Hardwick	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Winterset	2	1	3	1	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	..
Totals	383	336	719	164	130	294	399	378	777	167	144	311	26	

TABLE VII.

The Cause & Number of Deaths in the Townships of the District during 1897

TOWNSHIP.	Small Pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Croup	Whooping Cough	Typhus Fever	Enteric Fever	Other or Doubtful Fevers	Diarrhoea and Dysentery	Cholera	Rheumatic Fever	Pyæmia	Ague	Puerperal Fever	Erysipelas	Phthisis	Bronchitis	Pneumonia	Pleurisy	Heart Disease	Injuries	All other Diseases	Total	
Ackworth	-	2	2	1	3	4	3	..	4	2	16	37
Badsworth	-	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	2	..	..	3
Brierley	-	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	1	..	10	23	
Great Houghton	-	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	2	1	..	3	12
Hamphall Stubbs	-	
Havercroft	-	1	12	..	2	..	3	6	
Hemsworth	-	1	1	..	..	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	4	..	3	..	6	59	102	
Hessle and Hill Top	-	1	1	7	
Huntw'k, Foulby & Nostell	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	5	9	
Kirk Smeaton	-	2	..	3	6	
Little Houghton	-	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	9
Little Smeaton	-	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	4	6	
North Elmsall	-	4	..	2	..	2	27	
Ryhill	-	1	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	4	3	2	1	3	9	
Shafton	-	1	4	4	1	1	..	2	9	
South Elmsall	-	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	4	..	2	..	4	11
South Hiendley	-	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	2	..	1	6	4	14	
South Kirkby	-	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	5	1	2	..	10	27
Skelbrooke	-	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Thorpe Audlin	-	
Upton	-	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	
Walden Stubbs	-	2	..	3	6	
West Hardwick	-	1	2	
Winterset	-	
Totals	-	4	6	4	2	3	..	2	..	27	..	..	..	..	1	..	11	43	16	..	28	16	148	311

TABLE VIII.

AGE MORTALITY.

Deaths during		DISEASE.	1896						1897					
			Under 5			5 years &			Under 5			5 years &		
			years			upwards			years			upwards		
			Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1896	1897													
...	...	Small Pox -	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	4	Measles -	-	1	2	3	...	...	2	2	4	...	...	...
3	6	Scarlet Fever -	-	1	1	2	1	...	...	3	3	...	3	3
...	4	Diphtheria -	-	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3	1	...	1
2	2	Membraneous Croup	1	1	2	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	1
8	3	Whooping Cough -	-	4	4	8	...	...	2	1	3	...	...	...
2	2	Enteric Fever -	-	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
23	27	Diarrhoea & Dysentery	7	13	20	2	1	3	13	13	26	1	...	1
...	...	Rheumatic Fever -	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	1	Puerperal Fever -	-	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	1
1	2	Parturition -	-	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	2
...	...	Other or doubtful fevers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17	11	Phthisis -	-	1	...	1	11	5	...	...	...	8	3	11
47	43	Bronchitis -	-	18	17	35	7	5	17	10	27	9	7	16
18	16	Pneumonia -	-	5	3	8	5	5	5	1	6	4	6	10
...	...	Pleurisy -	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22	28	Heart Disease -	-	...	...	...	10	12	...	...	...	20	8	21
15	17	Tubercle of Lymph												
		Glands -	-	8	7	15	...	...	11	5	16	...	1	1
19	15	Dentition & Convulsions	15	4	19	...	...	...	5	10	15	...	...	...
27	26	Diseases of Brain and												
		Nervous System -	-	1	2	3	15	9	3	2	5	14	7	21
9	12	Malignant Diseases -	-	...	...	...	6	3	...	...	...	5	7	12
13	16	Injuries -	-	1	0	1	12	...	2	5	7	6	3	9
...	...	Erysipelas -	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	Syphilis -	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
63	76	All other Diseases -	-	19	17	36	11	16	21	22	43	14	19	33
² 94	311	Totals	-	82	71	153	82	59	84	75	159	83	69	152

	1896	1897
Inquests ...	18	24
Uncertified Deaths ...	8	3
Deaths in Workhouse ...	5	8
Deaths of Out-door Paupers ...	1	5

TABLE IX.

NOTIFICATION ACT.

List of Notified Cases occurring in the Townships during 1897.

Township.			Small Pox.	Cholera.	Diphtheria.	Membraneous Croup.	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Typhus	Enteric Fever	Continued or Relapsing Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Total 1897.	Total 1896.	Total 1865.
Ackworth	-	-	6	...	3	55	...	2	...	2	68	36	20
Badsworth	-	-	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	1
Brierley	-	-	-	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	3	7	3
Great Houghton		-	2	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	6	23	3
Hamphall Stubbs		-
Havercroft	-	-	1	...	1	...	...	2	3	2
Hemsworth	-	-	1	3	14	...	9	...	...	27	45	92
Hessle and Hill Top		1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Huntwick, Foulby and Nostell	-	-	1	...	1	13	...	1	...	...	16	6	3
Kirk Smeaton	-	-	1	1	...	..	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Little Houghton		-	1	13	...	...	...	1	15	8	...
Little Smeaton	-	-
North Elmsall	-	-	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Ryhill	-	-	-	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	15	5
Shafton	-	-	-	17	4
South Elmsall	-	-	-	1	3
South Hiendley		-	9	...	...	...	...	9	4	2
South Kirkby	-	-	1	5	...	13	...	...	19	5	6
Skelbrooke	-	-	4	...	...	...	...	4	...	...
Thorpe Audlin		-	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Upton	-	-	-	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	...
Walden Stubbs		-
West Hardwick		-
Winterset	-	-
Totals	-	-	12	2	11	124	...	28	...	3	180	172	144

TABLE X.

NOTIFICATION ACT.

Age Record of Cases Notified during 1897.

					<i>Under 5 years.</i>	<i>5 years and upwards.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	43	81	124
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	3	9	12
Membraneous Croup	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Typhus Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	2	26	28
Continued or Relapsing Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	..	...	...	...	...	11	11
Totals	...	...	...	...	49	131	180

TABLE XI.

NOTIFICATION ACT—MONTHLY RECORD, 1897.

	Small Pox.	Diphtheria	Membraneous Croup.	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever.	Typhus.	Enteric Fever.	Continued or Relapsing Fever.	Puerperal.	Total 1897.	Total 1896.	Total 1895.
January	3	...	...	10	...	2	...	...	15	25	..
February...	...	1	...	1	10	...	1	...	...	13	26	..
March	1	...	...	2	...	3	...	...	6	30	6
April	1	1	4	...	3	...	...	9	32	3
May	1	2	3	...	2	...	...	8	20	5
June	1	...	...	4	...	2	...	...	7	7	14
July	1	...	2	2	...	4	...	...	9	10	7
August	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	5	5	6
September	...	2	...	...	4	...	2	...	...	8	8	18
October	2	34	...	5	...	1	42	1	27
November	2	30	...	1	...	...	33	5	42
December	...	1	...	1	20	...	2	...	1	25	3	16
Totals	...	12	2	11	124	...	28	...	3	180	172	144

TABLE XII.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

106 Cases admitted during 1897.

Township.	17 Enteric Fever Cases.			88 Scarlet Fever Cases.			1 Diphtheria.		
	Under 5 years.	5 yrs. & upwards	Fatal.	Under 5 years.	5 yrs. & upwards	Fatal.	Under 5 years.	5 yrs. & upwards	Fatal.
Ackworth -	11	23	3	...	...	...
Badsworth -	1	...	...	...	...
Brierley -	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Great Houghton	1	2	...	...	...	...
Hemsworth -	...	8	1	10	3	...	...	...	...
Hessle and Hill Top	1	...	...	...	...
Huntwick, Foulby, and Nostell	4	...	...	...	...
Little Houghion	4	8	...	...	...	...
North Elmsall -	...	4	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Ryhill -	2	1	...	...	...
South Hiendley	7	3	2	...	...	...
South Kirkby -	...	4	...	...	5	...	...	...	...
Upton -	1	2	...	...	...	...
Totals -	...	17	1	34	54	6	...	1	...

1895.—46 cases admitted.
Enteric Fever 20; Fatal, 3
Scarlet Fever 26; Fatal 1

Totals	46	4
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1896.—64 cases admitted.
Enteric Fever 9; Fatal 0
Scarlet Fever 55; Fatal 2

Totals	64	2
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